

# China Not on Khrushchev Agenda

## Tells Senators He and President Put It Off Limits

STATINTL

By Marguerite Higgins

WASHINGTON, Sept. 16.—Soviet Prime Minister Nikita S. Khrushchev maintained today that President Eisenhower had agreed to put off limits such subjects as Red Chinese aggression and confine future talks solely to Russian-American affairs.

This claim by the boss of the Communist empire created a diplomatic explosion in Washington tonight. For it was in contrast to statement by President Eisenhower on Aug. 12 to ... inspired by the Communists ... would have to be a part" ... of conversations with Mr. Khrushchev.

In a frank go-round with members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the Soviet leader also lit into Vice-President Nixon for putting out information to the effect that there had been three previous failures before a Soviet rocket landed on the moon Monday.

There had been only one defective rocket, Mr. Khrushchev said, but that one had been replaced with the lunar shot that went off on the eve of his departure from Russia.

Senators attending the Foreign Relations "tea" of nearly two hours for Mr. Khrushchev said he had been at his most acid when they tried to press him on such things as threats of aggression by Red China and East Germany.

At first, Mr. Khrushchev would reply: "Why ask me. Why don't you ask Grotewohl (President of Communist East Germany) or Mao Tse-tung (director of Red China)?"

But the Senators, led by Sen. J. W. Fulbright, D., Ark., who arranged the meeting, were most startled by Mr. Khrushchev's claim that he and President Eisenhower had agreed not to touch on "any third countries."

This would have tremendous

implications, meaning that such crucial matters as Laos would not be brought into the future talks between the President and the Soviet leaders. The Laotian situation is one of the outstanding threats to peace at the moment, but such an agreement would prevent the United States from urging on the role. Further, this concept of the discussions here would contradict previous United States determination to bring up all outstanding cold war issues at some point.

There was no comment immediately available from the State Department or the White House as to whether Mr. Khrushchev's claim of such a promise was correct.

On the question of Russia's lunar probes, Mr. Khrushchev at first countered by saying, "Don't ask me, go ask Nixon. He's the one who seems to know all about our failures."

But later Mr. Khrushchev finally said, "I'll tell you a secret. We actually wanted to launch our moon rocket a week ago but it was faulty. A part was defective. So we completed another one and sent it up. We are repairing the faulty one. ... And I swear on the Bible that my story of the launching is true. I wonder whether your Vice-President would also swear on the Bible that he is right?" Mr. Khrushchev is a practicing, sometimes even belligerent, atheist. But he received religious instruction as a young peasant in the tiny Ukrainian village of Kalinkova.

### Parley Topics Set

It was announced earlier today that Secretary of State Christian A. Herter and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei A. Gromyko had quickly agreed this morning on the specific topics to be taken up by President Eisenhower and Mr. Khrushchev when they go to included Camp David in Maryland's Catoctin Mountains for conferences between Sept. 18 and 27.

Mr. Khrushchev's meeting with the Senators beginning at 5 p. m. was arranged by Sen. Fulbright following a flurry of controversy as to whether the Soviet leader should be invited to address Congress. This was solved automatically when Congress adjourned before his arrival.

As it turned out, at least twenty-five Senators turned out for the opportunity today of quizzing Mr. Khrushchev on a variety of world questions.

Afterward, Mr. Khrushchev himself termed the exchange as "easy ... frank ... good and useful."

Mr. Khrushchev was unexpectedly accompanied into the meeting by three enterprising Soviet newsmen. When the Americans protested, members of the committee explained that they had agreed to ten Russians being present at the exchange and that the three journalists apparently constituted part of the ten.

On the constructive side of the often lively discussion, Mr. Khrushchev told questioners that he would now be willing to participate in scientific exchange programs and joint projects for outer space.

When the Senate minority leader, Sen. Everett M. Dirksen, R., Ill., quizzed Mr. Khrushchev about taking restrictions off travel inside the Soviet Union, the Soviet leader kept parrying with the remark, "If the United States would withdraw your troops from overseas and liquidate your overseas bases, it would be a lot easier for both Russians and Americans to travel freely."

Sen. John J. Sparkman, D., Ala., who has traveled extensively in Russia, said he had not heard anything new today, but that Mr. Khrushchev was "quite an actor, quite a performer."

The Senator said he was mystified at claims that discussion of policies of other members of the Soviet bloc was "off limits."

"I can't tell you if he really understood Eisenhower correctly, but I do know that this is what he told us," Sen. Sparkman explained. "We tried very persistently to grill him on this point. But when such questions as the Communist attacks in Southeast Asia were pressed, he would always say that in his talks with Eisenhower it had been agreed not to discuss any of those questions."

According to Sen. Sparkman, Mr. Khrushchev would always take the position vis-a-vis the satellites that "we don't run those countries."